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THE CITRANGE: A NEW CITRUS FRUIT.[1]

The citrange, which is a cross between the worthless trifoliate orange of Japan and our ordinary sweet orange, is not an orange, but a hardy substitute for the lemon. The fruits are very juicy, containing a larger amount of juice proportionately than the best lemons. They make a refreshing "citrangeade," similar to lemonade, which people who have made a comparison pronounce equal to or even better than the latter. The fruits also make excellent pies and marmalade, and for these purposes are probably equal to the orange and the lemon. The citrange will undoubtedly prove valuable for general culinary purposes in the making and flavoring of cakes, making jellies and preserves, and in many other ways in which the lemon is now employed. When it is considered that these citranges can be grown throughout the Gulf and South Atlantic States, a large part of Texas and Arizona, and parts of New Mexico, Utah, Nevada, Oregon, and Washington, where there is now a dearth of acid fruits, their great value becomes evident.

There is at present, however, no market for the citrange, and it will probably prove of value mainly as a home fruit for cultivation throughout the regions mentioned, where the sweet orange, the lemon, and the lime can not be grown. The trees are attractive in shape and semi-evergreen, so that they will make desirable lawn trees. Wherever a home can be supplied with them it will be possible on the warm days between the 1st of September and the 1st of December to pick a few fruits and make a desirable and refreshing beverage. It is believed that they will prove a decided boon to a very large section of the country.

From the evidence thus far obtained it seems entirely probable that the citrange can be grown in South Carolina, Georgia, Alabama, Mississippi, Louisiana, and the warmer parts of Tennessee, Arkansas, and Texas, as well as in the warmer sections near the coast of Washington,

[1] Compiled with slight emendations from "New Citrus Creations of the Department of Agriculture," by Herbert J. Webber and Walter T. Swingle, Yearbook, 1904; "New Fruit Productions of the Department of Agriculture," by Herbert J. Webber, Yearbook, 1905; and "New Citrus and Pineapple Productions of the Department of Agriculture," by Herbert J. Webber, Yearbook, 1906.

Oregon, and northern California, and in certain irrigated regions of low altitude in Arizona, New Mexico, Utah, and Nevada. In short, the citrange is adapted for growth in regions which are only slightly too cold for the orange.

That trees of the citrange have been killed at certain stations must not be taken as an indication of tenderness on the part of the plant, since it is well known that the condition of the trees at the time of a freeze has a great deal to do with their hardiness. Trees which endure the most severe winters at the latitude of Washington, D. C., have been killed in some of the freezes in Florida simply because of the fact that they were in a sappy, growing condition at the time the freeze occurred.

It is considered best to propagate citrange varieties by budding on two or three year old seedlings of the trifoliate orange, which can be grown successfully anywhere in the southern United States. The ordinary method of eye budding which is practiced in the propagation of oranges, apples, etc., is used, and about the same manuring and cultivation should be given the trees of the citrange as are used with those fruits.

Approved:

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Chief of Bureau.

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